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MGK-W 4892

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

1 May 1950

Chief, Foreign Division S
Chief, Foreign Division M
Operational/Refined

Lead Provided by Head of Bala-Russian Government in Exile

Ref: MEM-A 872

1. Nikolai ABRAMTCHIK, head of the Bala-Russian Democratic Republic's government in exile has been approached by this agency in this country and has repeated his requests made on several previous occasions for our support in continuing allegedly recent penetrations of the RSER by individuals of his organization. He admits that Bala-Russian exile groups have had little direct contact with their homeland except through occasional letters, the recipients of which ABRAMTCHIK will not identify either for security reasons or because he has no specific information with which to back up this claim. ABRAMTCHIK states, however, that he knows many capable and serious-minded young Bala-Russian exiles who would be willing to visit their homeland on intelligence missions. From these he would like to select four for despatch, but he would need our support in the form of funds and communications equipment. He claims that two such individuals were despatched in 1948, and that their mission was closely coordinated with a U. S. intelligence agency, presumably CIC. Through pre-arranged newspaper notices, ABRAMTCHIK learned of their successful joining of the partisan groups. Because his organization in the past has not proved that it had enough capabilities for the despatch of agents, and the contacting of anti-Soviet elements within Bala-Russia to warrant our serious consideration, we asked him specific questions designed to show the effectiveness of his group. ABRAMTCHIK's replies were evasive and lacked concrete fact as to border crossing activities, postal communications, contacts within the RSER, supporters of the movement both within and outside the country, and dissident elements within his own movement. We believe that his failure to satisfactorily answer our questions was less a deliberate intention to withhold information than a lack of material with which to reply due to the ineffectiveness of his organization.

2. We are enclosing a brief account of ABRAMTCHIK's life and connection with the Bala-Russian government in exile. There are available several dissemi-nations covering the information that he has supplied on the personalities, activities and aims of this organization, which we will forward to you as soon as they are received. He himself is returning to Paris in May.

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SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

3. ABRAHAMSON did mention the name of a Sgt. Frederick HENRI, a radio-man allegedly in a DP camp near Munich. This man, he claims, could be contacted as to further concrete plans for operations into the USSR. He did not expand on the methods by which he might be of use. He did not wish to expose to ABRAHAMSON or HENRIAL either our personnel or our various installations. For ABRAHAMSON's organization is known to have been penetrated by Soviet and satellite agents in Europe; he himself, however, along with his immediate associates, is believed to be fairly reliable and discreet. It may be that we can use such a man as HENRIAL by supplying him with some funds and equipment and directing specific targets on which we desire information but limiting up to him the responsibility for infiltration and subversion. Such contacts as HENRIAL might also be used to put us into contact with individuals who might be recruited by us as agents. At any rate we offer to you the name of HENRIAL for your information and possibly for future investigation and action.

Attachment: 4

NOTE: The classification contained in paragraph 3 above can be relaxed.

END

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MIKHAEL ABRAMOVICH

1. MIKHAEL ABRAMOVICH (ABRAMOVICH) was born on August 6, 1903, at Grychivichi in the Vilna region of Belorussia. He attended high school at Minsk and Moshkovsk, graduating from the latter. From 1925 to 1929 he was in Prague, attending the College of Commerce and Charles University, with degrees of "diploma-honorary" of commerce from the former and "Mladnik" and "letnik" from the latter.
2. Entering Czechoslovakia illegally in 1924, ABRAMOVICH established close connections with Vashili ZACHAROVA, head of the Belorussian government in exile. ABRAMOVICH is reported to have been a minister of the Belorussian Peoples Republic among the emigres since 1924. He has resided in Paris since 1929, engaging in political indoctrination and some aid to Belorussian exiles. During World War II, he organized volunteers for the French Foreign Legion.
3. On March 12, 1943, ABRAMOVICH succeeded Vashili ZACHAROVA as president of the Belorussian Peoples Republic among the emigres. ZACHAROVA had been president from 1928 to 1943. The Belorussian emigration is split in two major directions: the Belorussian Central Council (BCC) or Belorussian Trusteeship (BCC) headed by OSTROVSKI, and the Council of the Belorussian Peoples Republic (BCC) or Belorussian Nationalism (BCC) headed by ABRAMOVICH. In 1943, ABRAMOVICH made an illegal trip to Belorussia where he contacted anti-German guerrillas. Upon his return to Berlin in November 1943 he was arrested and expelled to Paris where he was kept under Gestapo surveillance.
4. Since World War II, ABRAMOVICH, who is considered to be the real leader of the movement for Belorussian independence, has maintained contact with approximately 500 Belorussian organizations throughout the world and with even certain refugee groups and committees; he has travelled to Denmark, Sweden, Northern Germany, Belgium, England and the United States. At present he is in New York, having arrived November 27, 1949, on a visitor's visa which expires May 31, 1950.
5. ABRAMOVICH is stated to be the head of an unidentified liberation movement in Paris. This organization may be identical with "Union Belorussienne en France - CHANGING", of which ABRAMOVICH is a leader. He is considered to be implacably hostile to the USSR and is an advocate of political and cultural independence of Belorussia from Poland and the USSR, possibly within the framework of a regional or world federation of states. He maintains friendly contacts with Western governments, including United States authorities. Up to December 1948, he allegedly received messages from VITUSSEKO, the leader of the Belorussian partisan forces operating within the USSR.
6. The BCC mentioned above is headed by ABRAMOVICH is also known as the "Belorussian" group and has its headquarters in Cham or Regensburg. It is largely Roman Catholic and favors an independent Belorussian state. The "Belorussian" group has apparently been penetrated by a high-level Polish intelligence agent who has been said to be in frequent contact in recent years with ABRAMOVICH in Paris. It has been reported that this agent was presumably

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special liaison officer of the INTELLIGENCE to the Communist Government in Moscow. AMERICAN as was the allegedly provided to supply the agent with a letter of introduction to his Bulgarian agents. Another member of the INTELLIGENCE is said to have given this same agent lists of names of Bulgarian subsidiaries of intelligence interest. In spite of possession of this information by Soviet and satellite agents in Moscow, it is believed that AMERICAN and his immediate associates are reasonably discreet and reliable.

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